

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 1~~claim 36~~, wherein a mixture of MgO, and MgAl₂O₄ is used as a constituent material of the substrate ~~with the internal fuel flow part provided therein, at least a face of the substrate, in contact with the cells, and the interconnectors, being the insulator.~~

8. (Original) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 7, wherein the mixture of MgO, and MgAl₂O₄ is a mixture of MgO, and MgAl₂O₄, containing 20 to 70 vol. % of MgO.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 1~~claim 36~~, wherein an ~~yttria-yttria~~-stabilized zirconia expressed by chemical formula $(Y_2O_3)_x(ZrO_2)_{1-x}$ (~~in the chemical formula, wherein x = 0.03 to 0.12~~) 0.12 , is used as a constituent material of the substrate ~~with the internal fuel flow part provided therein, at least a face of the substrate, in contact with the cells, and the interconnectors, being the insulator.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 1~~claim 36~~, wherein a mixture of a mixture composed of MgO, and MgAl₂O₄, and an ~~yttria-yttria~~-stabilized zirconia expressed by chemical formula $(Y_2O_3)_x(ZrO_2)_{1-x}$ (~~in the chemical formula, wherein x = 0.03 to 0.12~~) 0.12 , is used as a constituent material of the

~~substrate with the internal fuel flow part provided therein, at least a face of the substrate, in contact with the cells, and the interconnectors, being the insulator.~~

11. (Original) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 10, wherein the mixture of MgO, and MgAl₂O₄ is a mixture of MgO, and MgAl₂O₄, containing 20 to 70 vol. % of MgO.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein a constituent material of the substrate ~~with the internal fuel flow part provided therein, at least a face of the substrate, in contact with the cells, and the interconnectors, being the insulator, is a material composed of Ni diffused in a range not more than 35 vol. %.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein a material composed mainly of Ni, Ni is used as a ~~constituent~~constituent material of the fuel electrode.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein a mixture of Ni and an yttria-stabilized zirconia expressed by chemical formula $(Y_2O_3)_x(ZrO_2)_{1-x}$ (in the chemical formula, wherein x = 0.03 to 0.12)0.12, with not less than 40 vol. % of Ni diffused in the mixture, is used as a constituent material of the fuel electrode.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein, an yttria-an yttria-stabilized zirconia expressed by chemical formula $(Y_2O_3)_x(ZrO_2)_{1-x}$ (in the chemical formula, wherein x = 0.05 to 0.15)0.15, is used as a constituent material of the electrolyte.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 1~~claim~~ 36, wherein a scandia-scandia-stabilized zirconia expressed by chemical formula $(\text{Sc}_2\text{O}_3)_x(\text{ZrO}_2)_{1-x}$ (in the chemical formula, wherein $x = 0.05$ to 0.15)0.15, is used as a constituent material of the electrolyte.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 1~~claim~~ 36, wherein an yttria-yttria-doped ceria expressed by chemical formula $(\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3)_x(\text{CeO}_2)_{1-x}$ (in the chemical formula, wherein $x = 0.02$ to 0.4)0.4, is used as a constituent material of the electrolyte.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 1~~claim~~ 36, wherein a gadolinia-gadolinia-doped ceria expressed by chemical formula $(\text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3)_x(\text{CeO}_2)_{1-x}$ (in the chemical formula, wherein $x = 0.02$ to 0.4)0.4, is used as a constituent material of the electrolyte.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 1~~claim~~ 36, wherein a material composed of a mixture of a glass and an electroconductive material is used as a constituent material of the interconnector.

20. (Original) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 19, wherein the glass in the mixture of the glass and the electroconductive material is a glass with thermal expansion coefficient falling in a range of 8.0 to $14.0 \times 10^{-6}\text{K}^{-1}$.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 19, wherein

the glass in the mixture of the glass and the electroconductive material is a glass with a softening point falling in a range of 600 to 1000°C.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 19, wherein the electroconductive material in the mixture of the glass and the electroconductive material is a metal.

23. (Original) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 22, wherein the metal is at least one kind of metal selected from the group consisting of Pt, Ag, Au, Ni, Co, W, and Pd.

24. (Original) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 22, wherein the metal is an alloy containing Ag.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 19, wherein the electroconductive material in the mixture of the glass and the electroconductive material is an electroconductive oxide.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 25, wherein the electroconductive oxide is a perovskite-perovskite-type ceramics composed of not less than two elements selected from the group consisting of La, Cr, Y, Ce, Ca, Sr, Mg, Ba, Ni, Fe, Co, Mn, Ti, Nd, Pb, Bi, and Cu.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 25, wherein the electroconductive oxide is an oxide expressed by chemical formula $(Ln, M)CrO_3$ -(~~in the chemical formula, wherein Ln refers to lanthanoids,~~ lanthanoids and M refers to Ba, Ca, Mg, or Sr).

28. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 25, wherein the electroconductive oxide is an oxide expressed by chemical formula $M(Ti_{1-x} Nb_x)O_3$ (~~in the chemical formula, wherein M refers to at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ba, Ca, Li, Pb, Bi, Cu, Sr, La, Mg, and Ce, x = 0 to 0.4~~).

29. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 19, wherein ~~the electroconductive material content of the mixture of the glass and the electroconductive material is not less than 30 vol. % of the mixture.~~

30. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 19, wherein the mixture of the glass and the electroconductive material is subjected to heat treatment at not higher than the melting point of the electroconductive material after the mixture is applied between the fuel electrode of one of the adjacent cells, and the air electrode of the other cell.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein only portions of the interconnector connecting the fuel electrode of one of the adjacent cells with the air electrode of the other cell, in contact with the fuel electrode, and the electrolyte, respectively, are formed of a material composed mainly of Ag.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein only portions of the interconnector connecting the fuel electrode of one of the adjacent cells with the air electrode of the other cell, in contact with the fuel electrode, and the electrolyte, respectively, are formed of a

material composed of one kind or not less than two kinds of material selected from the group consisting of Ag, Ag solder, and a mixture of Ag and the glass.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein only portions of the interconnector connecting the fuel electrode of one of the adjacent cells with the air electrode of the other cell, in contact with the fuel electrode, and the electrolyte, respectively, are formed of an electroconductive oxide.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to ~~claim 1~~claim 36, wherein an oxide material containing Ti is used as a constituent material of the interconnector connecting the fuel electrode of one of the adjacent cells with the air electrode of the other cell.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module according to claim 34, wherein the oxide material containing Ti is a material expressed by chemical formula $M(Ti_{1-x} Nb_x)O_3$ —~~(in the chemical formula,~~ wherein M refers to at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ba, Ca, Pb, Bi, Cu, Sr, La, Li, and Ce, x = 0 to 0.4)0.4.

36. (New) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module made up of a plurality of cells provided adjacent to one another and electrically connected in series by an interconnector provided therebetween, each cell comprising a fuel electrode, an electrolyte and an air electrode sequentially formed on a surface of a substrate having an internal fuel flow path provided therein, at least the surface of the substrate in contact with the cells and interconnectors

being electrically insulating, said method comprising the steps of:

providing respective fuel electrodes and respective electrolytes on the surface of the substrate;

co-sintering the respective fuel electrodes and respective electrolytes;

providing a respective first part of the respective interconnectors having a density that is not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material or that will have a density of not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material after sintering in contact with the respective fuel electrodes and the respective electrolytes;

forming respective air electrodes on the respective electrolytes; and

electrically connecting the respective electrodes with the respective first parts of the respective interconnectors via respective second parts of the interconnectors which may have a density less than the respective first parts.

37. (New) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module made up of a plurality of cells provided adjacent to one another and electrically connected in series by an interconnector provided therebetween, each cell comprising a fuel electrode, an electrolyte and an air electrode sequentially formed on a surface of a substrate having an internal fuel flow path provided therein, at least the surface of the substrate in contact with the cells and interconnectors being electrically insulating, said method comprising the steps of:

providing respective fuel electrodes and respective electrolytes on the surface of the substrate;

co-sintering the substrate, the respective fuel electrodes and the respective electrolytes;

providing a respective first part of the respective interconnectors having a density that is not less than 90% of

the theoretical density of the interconnector material or that will have a density of not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material after sintering in contact with the respective fuel electrodes and the respective electrolytes;

forming respective air electrodes on the respective electrolytes; and

electrically connecting the respective air electrodes with the respective first parts of the respective interconnectors via respective second parts of the respective interconnectors which may have a density less than the respective first parts.

38. (New) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module made up of a plurality of cells provided adjacent to one another and electrically connected in series by an interconnector provided therebetween, each cell comprising a fuel electrode, an electrolyte and an air electrode sequentially formed on a surface of a substrate having an internal fuel flow path provided therein, at least the surface of the substrate in contact with the cells and interconnectors being electrically insulating, said method comprising the steps of:

providing respective fuel electrodes, respective electrolytes and respective interconnectors on the surface of the substrate, a respective first part of the respective interconnectors having a density that is not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material or that will have a density of not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material after sintering in contact with the respective fuel electrodes and the respective electrolytes;

co-sintering the respective fuel electrodes, respective electrolytes and respective interconnectors;

forming respective air electrodes on the respective electrolytes; and

electrically connecting the respective air electrodes with the respective first parts of the respective interconnectors via respective second parts of the respective interconnectors which may have a density less than the respective first parts.

39. (New) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module made up of a plurality of cells provided adjacent to one another and electrically connected in series by an interconnector provided therebetween, each cell comprising a fuel electrode, an electrolyte and an air electrode sequentially formed on a surface of a substrate having an internal fuel flowpath provided therein, at least the surface of the substrate in contact with the cells and interconnectors being electrically insulating, said method comprising the steps of:

providing respective fuel electrodes, respective electrolytes and respective interconnectors on the surface of the substrate, a respective first part of the respective interconnectors having a density that is not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material or that will have a density of not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material after sintering in contact with the respective fuel electrodes and the respective electrolytes;

co-sintering the substrate, the respective fuel electrodes, respective electrolytes and respective interconnectors;

forming respective air electrodes on the respective electrolytes; and

electrically connecting the respective air electrodes with the respective first parts of the respective interconnectors via respective second parts of the respective interconnectors which may have a density less than the respective first parts.

40. (New) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module made up of a plurality of cells provided adjacent to one another and electrically connected in series by an interconnector provided therebetween, each cell comprising a fuel electrode, an electrolyte and an air electrode sequentially formed on a surface of a substrate having an internal fuel flow path provided therein, at least the surface of the substrate in contact with the cells and interconnectors being electrically insulating, said method comprising the steps of:

providing respective fuel electrodes on the surface of the substrate;

providing a respective first part of the respective interconnectors having a density that is not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material or that will have a density of not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material after sintering in contact with the respective fuel electrodes;

providing the respective electrolytes on the respective fuel electrodes;

co-sintering the respective interconnectors, the respective fuel electrodes and the respective electrolytes;

forming respective air electrodes on the respective electrolytes; and

electrically connecting the respective air electrodes with the respective first parts of the respective interconnectors via respective second parts of the respective interconnectors which may have a density less than the respective first parts.

41. (New) A method of manufacturing a solid oxide fuel cell module made up of a plurality of cells provided adjacent to one another and electrically connected in series by an interconnector provided therebetween, each cell comprising a fuel electrode, an electrolyte and an air electrode sequentially formed on a surface of a substrate having an

internal fuel flow path provided therein, at least the surface of the substrate in contact with the cells and interconnectors being electrically insulating, said method comprising the steps of:

 providing respective fuel electrodes on the surface of the substrate;

 providing a respective first part of the respective interconnections having a density that is not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material or that will have a density of not less than 90% of the theoretical density of the interconnector material after sintering in contact with the respective fuel electrodes;

 providing the respective electrolytes on the respective fuel electrodes;

 co-sintering the respective interconnectors, the respective fuel electrodes and the respective electrolytes;

 forming respective air electrodes on the respective electrolytes; and

 electrically connecting the respective air electrodes with the respective first parts of the respective interconnectors via respective second parts of the respective interconnectors which may have a density less than the respective first parts.

42. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the density of the respective second parts of the respective interconnectors is less than the density of the respective first parts.

43. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the density of the respective second parts of the respective interconnectors is less than the density of the respective first parts.

44. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the density of the respective second parts of the respective

interconnectors is less than the density of the respective first parts.

45. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the density of the respective second parts of the respective interconnectors is less than the density of the respective first parts.

46. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the density of the respective second parts of the respective interconnectors is less than the density of the respective first parts.

47. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the density of the respective second parts of the respective interconnectors is less than the density of the respective first parts.